

## **RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT #DC-502**

### **I - Problem Title**

Application of Accessibility Principles for Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (RRR) Projects (RD-01)

### **II - Research Problem Statement**

The Department as part of updating Design Information Bulletin 82-01 is proposing “Draft” RRR Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Guidelines. The appropriateness of these guidelines and verification of them, as an appropriate design aid for decision making related to pedestrian accessibility, needs to be studied and reported upon.

### **III – Objective**

The objective of this research is to verify and recommend refinements, as appropriate, to the design parameters for accessibility contained in the “Draft” Caltrans RRR ADA Guidelines.

### **IV - Background**

The Federal Highway Administration currently requires the Department to design existing pedestrian facilities within the limits of a RRR project per Federal and State standards on accessibility that are based upon building code standards. The difficulty is that these standards do not readily apply to pedestrian facilities that are commonly constructed within public transportation rights of way. Physical constraints that are often found within transportation rights of way often preclude the use of the “building code-related” accessibility standards from being incorporated into transportation projects without modification. The “Draft” RRR ADA Guidelines will be a tool to help make decisions on project-related accessibility issues.

### **V – Statement of Urgency and Benefits**

Urgent. Implementation of the “Draft” ADA RRR Guidelines will assist the Department to better apply pedestrian accessibility to RRR projects and comply with both Federal and State legal requirements.

### **VI – Related Research**

The University of Texas has conducted research on acceptable cross slope design, which is one component of accessibility. Their research paper entitled “Meeting the Intent of the ADA in Sidewalk Cross-Slope Design” can be found on their website at: [www.ce.utexas.edu/prof/kockelman/public\\_html/JRRD\\_TestRes.pdf](http://www.ce.utexas.edu/prof/kockelman/public_html/JRRD_TestRes.pdf).

### **VII – Deployment Potential**

Every HA-22 project that has pedestrian facilities will be affected by the research findings.